GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:737
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2002
MANPOWER IN THE FIELD OF BIO-TECH
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of bio-technology is being hindered due to lack of skilled manpower;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to develop the skilled manpower;

(c) whether the Government have encourages tie-ups with the universities to develop and train such needed manpower;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the financial assistance provided for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : There is a continuing effort to generate skilled human resource covering various areas of biotechnology. A number of Human Resource Development programmes are under implementation such as post-graduate teaching and diploma courses, technician training, post-doctoral fellowships, award of biotechnology associateships for research and training in overseas research laboratories, short-term training courses for young scientists, support to the visits of eminent scientists from abroad to take part in collaborative research and training/teaching, industrial biotech training and award of scholarships to students of 10+2 level to encourage them to take up biology as career. National Bioscience Awards for Career Development, Biotechnology Product, Process Development and Commercialization awards and National Women Bioscientist awards are also given.About 60 post-graduate courses in biotechnology are being conducted. One time financial support for equipment is also provided to strengthen the ongoing post-graduate teaching programmes i n universities. Around 750 students are admitted in post-graduate courses every year. Microbiology and Food Technology teaching departments in different universities/R&D institutions have been strengthened for research and training in Microbial and Food Biotechnology. Post-graduate diploma courses in Bioinformatics have also been supported at four institutions.

(c) & (d) : The Department has close tie-up with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Ministry of Human Resource Development. A joint Task Force with UGC has been constituted to develop and support biotechnology teaching programmes in universities. It is proposed to further strengthen and expand the Human Resource Development programmes keeping in view the growing demand of skilled human resource in the 10th five-year plan.

(e) : Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 51.00 crores has been provided by DBT for Human Resource Development during 9th Plan. In addition faculty positions are provided by University Grants Commission to many programmes.